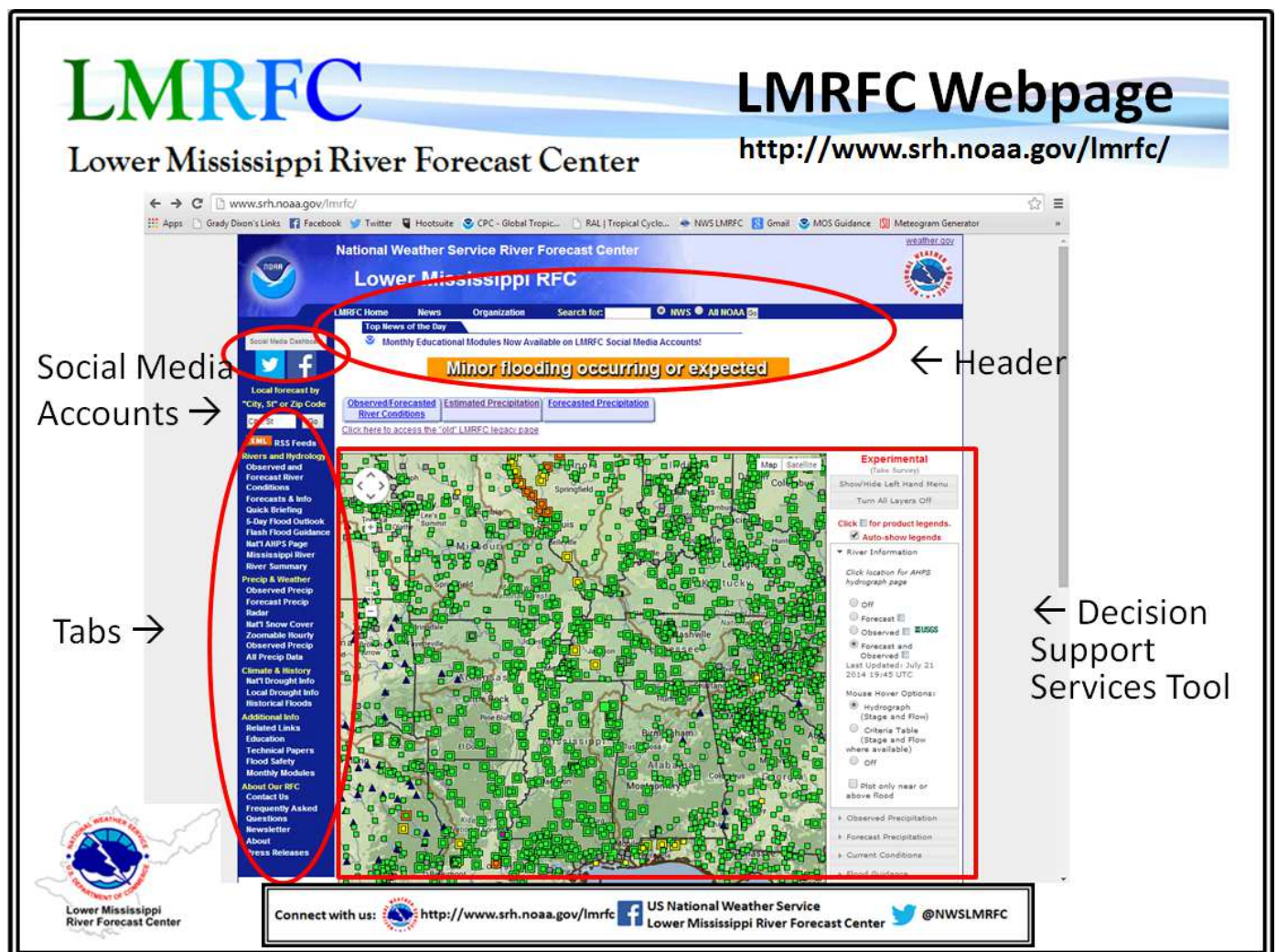


## **“An Overview of the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center’s Website”**

Welcome to the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center's 7th Monthly Educational Module! This month, we are covering the LMRFC's products, forecasts, and website. It is important to understand all of the LMRFC's products and forecasts, but it is just as important to know where to find them. So, let's start by exploring the LMRFC's home page. You can follow along by viewing the graphics below. You can also visit the LMRFC's website here:

We hope you enjoy this quick overview of the LMRFC's home page.





Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

## LMRFC Webpage

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/>

- **Social Media Accounts**

- On to the top, left hand side of the home page is where you can find links to the LMRFC's social media accounts, Facebook, Twitter, and Social Media Dashboard. You can also see there is a search engine for the weather forecast in your local area.

- **Tabs**

- Below the local forecast search engine, you see several tabs broken into 5 sections: Rivers and Hydrology, Precip and Weather, Climate and History, Additional Info, and About Our RFC. These sections include useful tabs that link to forecasts, products, educational tools, and other important information that is related to the LMRFC. Don't worry; we will go into these sections in more detail later on.

- **Header**

- This is where you can find the top news stories at the LMRFC, as well as all of your main navigation tools. These navigation tools include links to the LMRFC's home page, the National Weather Service's News page and organizational structure, and a search engine. You can also see if we have minor, moderate, or major flooding occurring or expected in the LMRFC area with the colored banner at the top.

- **Decision Support Services Tool**

- In the center of the LMRFC's home page is the status map. This is the LMRFC's Decision Support Tool (DSS Tool). This is an experimental, interactive map that allows you to overlay many different layers including precipitation forecasts and observations, hydrologic forecasts and observations, and much more. We will cover our DSS tool in more detail later on in the module.



Connect with us:



<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/>



US National Weather Service  
Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center



@NWSLMRFC

## Day 2

Now that we have given you an overview of the LMRFC's home page, it's time to dive a little deeper! As many of you already know, the most popular forecast product that the LMRFC issues is the river forecast, but do you know where to find the LMRFC's river forecasts? Well, you are in luck because we are going to help you find them here! The best place to find the LMRFC's river forecasts, as well as monitor river conditions, is through the LMRFC's status map. There are two main ways to locate the LMRFC's status map. First, navigate to the LMRFC's home page here, <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/>, or you can simply check out the graphic below. Next, click on the tab in the header that says "Observed/Forecasted River Conditions," or you can click on the LMRFC legacy page link right below this tab. Both of these will take you to the LMRFC's status map. The LMRFC's status map is a very useful tool for the LMRFC's partners and the general public because it allows you to see all of the LMRFC's river forecast points color coated by the status of the latest river observation and forecast. This is an easy way to monitor river conditions, as well as to navigate to the actual forecasts. All you have to do is simply click on the forecast dot, and it will automatically direct you to the forecast hydrograph for that location. Cool, huh?! Now, there is another way you can view the latest river stages and forecasts, but we will cover that in our next post!

# LMRFC

## LMRFC Status Map

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/lmrfclegacy.php>

The status map to the right shows the latest river gage readings and forecasts. The dots represent forecast points and they are colored according to their values. Green dots represent stages that are below action stage. Orange, red, and purple dots represent forecast points that are in flood. And, grey dots mean that the data are missing.

Connect with us: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/> [US National Weather Service](#) [Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center](#) [@NWSLMRFC](#)

## Day 3

It's time to introduce another tool for monitoring river conditions and forecasts...the LMRFC's Decision Support Services (DSS) Tool. You can take a sneak peak at the DSS tool with the graphic below. Or, you can go to the LMRFC's home page here, <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/>, and interact with the tool yourself.

The DSS tool is great for monitoring river conditions for situational awareness; however, this isn't the only thing the DSS Tool is used for. You can also use this tool to view MANY of the LMRFC's other forecast products and guidance such as... forecast and observed river data, hourly precipitation estimates, daily precipitation forecasts, radar and satellite, flash flood guidance, and climate and drought outlook products. The DSS tool allows you to overlay any of these products, and it even allows you to overlay geographic overlays like state boundaries, river basin, roads, and cities. Lastly, it has the capacity to overlay our NWS partners' forecasts and other agencies' boundaries. This tool is perfect for weather briefings and situational awareness.

If you would like to learn more about these products in depth, be sure to keep reading!

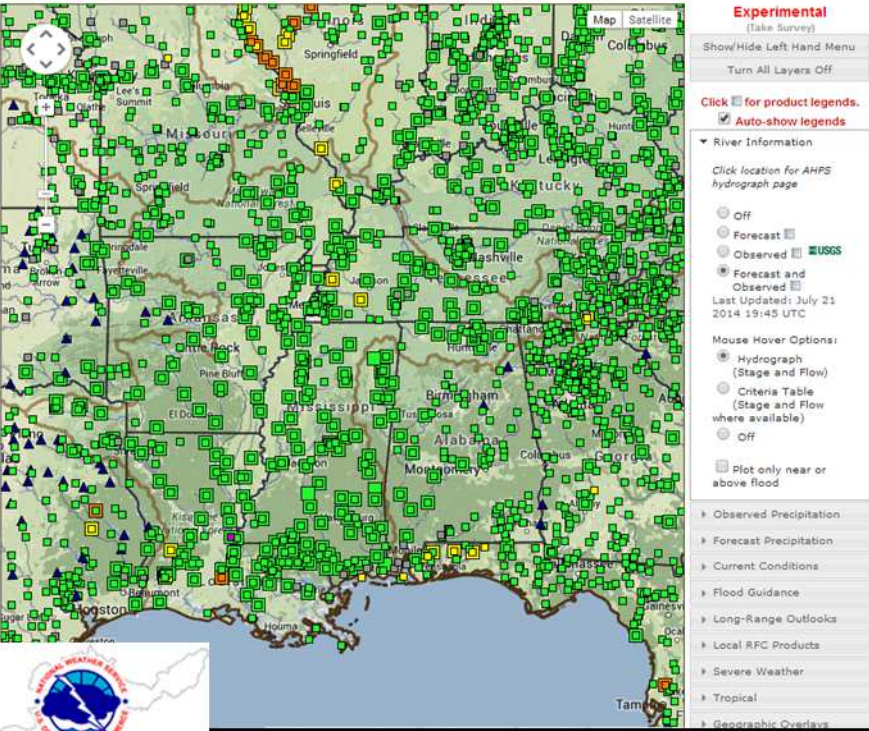
# LMRFC

## Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

### Decision Support Services Tool

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/>

#### Status Map



Experimental  
(Take Survey)

Show/Hide Left Hand Menu  
Turn All Layers Off

Click for product legends.  
Auto-show legends

River Information  
Click location for AHPS hydrograph page

Off  
Forecast  
Observed  
Forecast and Observed  
Last Updated: July 21 2014 19:45 UTC

Mouse Hover Options:  
Hydrograph (Stage and Flow)  
Criteria Table (Stage and Flow where available)  
Off

Plot only near or above flood

Observed Precipitation  
Forecast Precipitation  
Current Conditions  
Flood Guidance  
Long-Range Outlooks  
Local RFC Products  
Severe Weather  
Tropical  
Geographic Overlays

Layers:

- Hydrologic Forecasts
- Observed Precipitation
- Forecast Precipitation
- Current Conditions
- Flash Flood Guidance
- Long-Range Outlooks
- Local RFC Products
- Severe Weather
- Tropical
- Geographic Overlays
- Partner Overlays
- Information About This Map

Connect with us: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/> US National Weather Service Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center @NWSLMRFC

## Day 4

In our previous post, we mentioned all the neat things you can view with the DSS tool, but it's time to dive into these products a little more and see where you can find them on our webpage. First up are the LMRFC's Mississippi River forecasts!

There are two main ways to get to the Mississippi River forecast other than the DSS tool. First, you can go to the LMRFC's homepage here, <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/>, and click on the tab titled "Mississippi River" on the left hand column. This will take you to the text forecast, as seen in the graphic below. You can also view the Mississippi River hydrographs with the "Mississippi River Hydrographs" link above the text product.

You can also get the Mississippi River forecast through the LMRFC's status map that we discussed on Tuesday. Simply, click anywhere along the Mississippi River on the status map found here: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/lmrfclegacy.php>. This will bring you to all the forecast points along the MS River, as seen in the graphic below. All you have to do is click on the point that you want to view.

Now, here's a little background on the Mississippi River forecasts. The Mississippi River forecast is comprised of 24 forecast points and provides the stage forecast for each location going out 5 days based on 24 hours of forecast precipitation. It is issued once a day in the morning and twice a day when in the Mississippi River is in flood. The LMRFC coordinates with the Ohio River Forecast Center, the North Central River Forecast Center, the Arkansas-Red Basin River Forecast Center, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue the most accurate and timely forecast.

The LMRFC also issues an extended range forecast that goes out 28 days based on the same 24 hours of forecast precipitation. This product is issued once a week on Wednesday afternoons. You can check out this forecast with the second graphic below, or you can view the forecast with the link here: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=esp>.

Lastly, the LMRFC issues a zero QPF forecast, which is a 14 day forecast of the Mississippi River that does not take into account future precipitation. You can check out this forecast here: <http://www.riverwatch.noaa.gov/forecasts/STLRVALSX.php>.

## Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

# Mississippi River Forecast

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=lmrfc-mississippiandohioriverforecast>

### National Weather Service River Forecast Center

## Lower Mississippi RFC

LMRFC Home   News   Organization   Search for:

Local forecast by "City, 5F or Zip Code"

City:  State:  Go

**XML RSS Feeds**

Rivers and Hydrology  
Observed and Forecast River Conditions

**Printer Friendly**

**Mississippi River Hydro Index**

217   570024   2001   215141   570024

**FORECAST...LOWER OHIO/MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER FORECAST CENTER  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE   SLIDELL LA  
1039AM CDT MON JUL 23 2014

PROJ FLOW	TDA	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
BARKLEY DAM	14	16	16	10	10	10
KENTUCKY DAM	31	22	24	35	35	20

**STATION STAGE FORECASTS**

STATION	FS	TAM	24HR	...	F	O	R	C	A	S	T
		STG	CHG	0724	0725	0726	0727	07	07	07	07
<b>OHIO RIVER</b>											
SMITHLAND TN	40	11.2	-0.3	11.7	12.0	12.0	12.0	12	12	12	12
PADUCAH	39	13.9	-0.2	14.3	15.6	15.7	15.7	15	15	15	15
CAIRO	40	26.7	-0.8	24.6	23.6	22.9	22.0	20	20	20	20
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>											
CAPE GIRARDEAU	32	26.4	-1.1	27.4	26.4	25.5	24.4	23	23	23	23
NEW MADRID	34	17.0	-0.6	18.4	17.4	16.5	15.2	14	14	14	14
TIPTONVILLE	37	20.0	-0.6	19.2	17.7	16.7	15.9	15	15	15	15
CARUTHERSVILLE	32	19.0	-0.5	18.3	17.4	16.4	15.7	15	15	15	15
OSCEOLA	28	12.9	-0.2	12.2	11.1	9.9	9.0	9	9	9	9
MEMPHIS	34	13.6	-0.5	12.9	11.9	10.9	9.8	9	9	9	9
TWICA	41	24.6	-0.6	24.0	23.2	22.2	21.2	20	20	20	20
HELENA	44	21.1	-0.7	20.4	19.8	18.9	17.9	17	17	17	17
ARKANSAS CITY	37	19.3	-0.3	18.7	18.1	17.5	16.7	16	16	16	16
GREENVILLE	46	31.2	-0.3	30.6	30.0	29.4	28.7	27	27	27	27
VICKSBURG	43	28.0	-0.4	27.6	26.9	26.3	25.8	25	25	25	25
WATKINS	46	35.8	-0.1	35.4	35.0	34.4	33.6	33	33	33	33
RED RIVER LINDO	48	38.0	-0.1	37.9	37.3	37.2	36.6	36	36	36	36
BATON ROUGE	35	22.4	+0.1	22.4	22.2	21.8	21.3	20	20	20	20
DOUGLASSVILLE	27	14.0	+0.0	14.1	14.0	13.7	13.5	13.1	13	13	13
RESERVE	22	10.4	+0.1	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.2	10	10	10	10
NEW ORLEANS	17/7	7.1	+0.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.9	6	6	6

/ / LEVEES PROTECT CITY OF NEW ORLEANS TO 20 FT STAGE.

### National Weather Service River Forecast Center

## Lower Mississippi RFC

LMRFC Home   News   Organization   Search for:

Local forecast by "City, 5F or Zip Code"

City:  State:  Go

**XML RSS Feeds**

Rivers and Hydrology  
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**FORECAST...LOWER OHIO/MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE   SLIDELL LA  
1039AM CDT MON JUL 23 2014

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**STATION STAGE FORECASTS**

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		STG	CHG	0724	0725	0726	0727	07	07	07	07
<b>OHIO RIVER</b>											
SMITHLAND TN	40	11.2	-0.3	11.7	12.0	12.0	12.0	12	12	12	12
PADUCAH	39	13.9	-0.2	14.3	15.6	15.7	15.7	15	15	15	15
CAIRO											



Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Text Product

## 28-Day Mississippi River Forecast

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=esp>

Graphical Forecast

National Weather Service River Forecast Center  
**Lower Mississippi RFC**

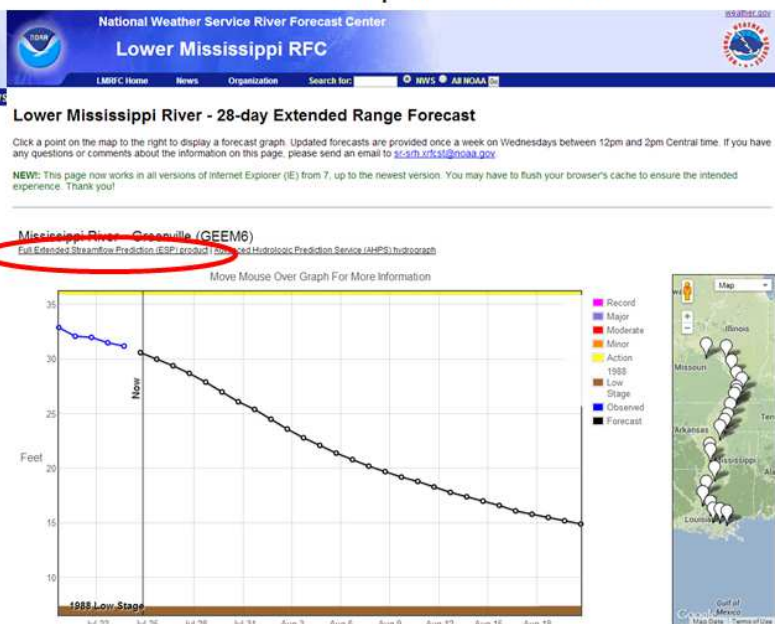
LMRFC Home News Organization Search for: [ ] NWS All NOAA

Local forecast by 189  
F00544 KCRN 232100  
ESP000  
City: St [ ] Go  
EXTENDED STREAMFLOW PREDICTION  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RIVER FORECAST CENTER, SLIDELL, LA  
100 PM CDT WED 23 2014

Rivers and Hydrology  
Observed and Forecast River Conditions  
Forecasts & Info  
Quick Briefing  
5-Day Flood Outlook  
Flash Flood Guidance  
Natl AHP's Page  
Mississippi River  
River Summary  
Precip & Weather  
Observed Precip  
Forecast Precip  
Radar  
Natl Snow Cover  
Zoomable Hourly Observed Precip  
All Precip Data  
Climate & History  
Natl Drought Info  
Local Drought Info  
Historical Floods  
Additional Info  
Related Links  
Education  
Technical Papers  
Flood Safety  
Monthly Modules  
About Our RFC  
Contact Us  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Newsletter  
About  
Press Releases

DATE	CP007	CP012	IND07	TP071	CR071	OS044	NEM01	TR006	BE044
07-24-14	27.4	24.6	15.5	19.2	15.3	12.2	12.8	24.0	20.4
07-25-14	26.4	23.7	14.4	17.7	17.4	11.1	11.8	23.3	19.8
07-26-14	25.5	22.9	13.5	16.7	16.3	9.9	10.9	22.4	17.9
07-27-14	24.4	22.0	12.6	15.9	15.7	9.0	9.8	21.5	17.9
07-28-14	23.4	20.5	11.4	14.8	15.0	8.1	9.0	20.3	17.0
07-29-14	22.6	19.4	10.0	13.5	14.0	7.2	8.1	19.5	16.1
07-30-14	21.9	18.5	9.2	12.6	12.9	6.2	7.1	18.5	15.3
07-31-14	21.2	17.7	8.4	11.9	12.0	5.1	6.1	17.4	14.3
08-01-14	20.3	16.9	7.7	11.3	11.3	4.2	5.2	16.5	13.4
08-02-14	19.6	16.2	7.1	10.6	10.6	3.4	4.4	15.6	12.5
08-03-14	18.9	15.5	6.4	10.0	10.1	2.7	3.5	14.9	11.7
08-04-14	18.2	14.8	5.7	9.4	9.6	2.1	2.9	14.1	10.9
08-05-14	17.6	14.3	5.2	8.9	9.1	1.6	2.3	13.5	10.3
08-06-14	16.8	13.8	4.7	8.5	8.6	1.1	1.8	13.0	9.7
08-07-14	16.2	13.3	4.2	8.0	8.1	0.6	1.3	12.5	9.1
08-08-14	15.6	12.9	3.8	7.6	7.7	0.1	0.8	12.0	8.5
08-09-14	15.0	12.6	3.4	7.3	7.3	-0.3	0.3	11.5	8.1
08-10-14	14.3	12.3	3.1	7.0	7.0	-0.7	0.0	11.1	7.6
08-11-14	13.5	12.0	2.9	6.7	6.7	-1.0	-0.4	10.7	7.2
08-12-14	12.9	11.7	2.6	6.4	6.4	-1.3	-0.8	10.3	6.7
08-13-14	12.3	11.4	2.3	6.1	6.1	-1.6	-1.1	10.0	6.3
08-14-14	11.9	11.2	2.1	5.9	5.9	-1.9	-1.4	9.6	5.8
08-15-14	11.7	11.0	1.9	5.6	5.7	-2.1	-1.7	9.3	5.3
08-16-14	11.6	10.9	1.8	5.5	5.5	-2.3	-2.0	9.0	5.0
08-17-14	11.5	10.8	1.7	5.4	5.4	-2.5	-2.3	8.7	4.8
08-18-14	11.4	10.7	1.6	5.3	5.2	-2.6	-2.6	8.5	4.5
08-19-14	11.2	10.7	1.5	5.2	5.2	-2.8	-2.8	8.2	4.2
08-20-14	11.0	10.6	1.5	5.2	5.1	-2.9	-3.0	8.0	4.0

DATE	AR044	GE006	VC006	NT006	PR011	BT011	DON11	PR011	WOR11
07-24-14	18.7	30.6	27.6	35.4	37.9	22.4	14.1	10.4	7.2
07-25-14	18.1	30.0	26.9	35.0	37.5	22.2	14.0	10.4	7.1
07-26-14	17.5	29.4	26.3	34.4	37.2	21.8	13.7	10.3	7.1
07-27-14	16.7	28.7	25.5	33.8	36.6	21.3	13.5	10.2	7.0
07-28-14	15.7	27.9	25.2	33.2	36.0	20.8	13.1	10.0	6.9
07-29-14	14.9	27.0	24.5	32.7	35.5	20.3	12.8	9.7	6.7
07-30-14	14.1	26.1	23.7	32.1	35.0	19.8	12.5	9.5	6.6
07-31-14	13.3	25.4	22.9	31.3	34.4	19.3	12.1	9.3	6.4
08-01-14	12.4	24.5	22.1	30.6	33.7	18.7	11.8	9.1	6.3
08-02-14	11.5	23.6	21.2						
08-03-14	10.7	22.8	20.3						
08-04-14	9.9	22.1	19.6						



The LMRFC issues a long range forecast for the MS River that goes out 28 days based on 24 hours of forecast precipitation.

Connect with us: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc> US National Weather Service Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center @NWSLMRFC

## Day 5

Next up, we are highlighting the LMRFC's QPF forecasts. You may be asking yourself, "What the heck is a QPF forecast?" Well, if you are, be sure to check out the graphic below to learn all about our QPF forecasts!

Once you check out the graphic below and want to find these forecasts, you can simply go to the LMRFC's home page here, <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/>, and click on the "Forecast Precip" tab on the left hand side. Or, you can just click on the link here, <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/qpfpage.php>.

We hope you have enjoyed learning all about the LMRFC's precipitation forecasts; however, we aren't finished talking about all of the LMRFC's weather products. Be sure to keep reading!

# LMRFC

## Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

# Precipitation Forecasts

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/qpfpage.php>

National Weather Service River Forecast Center  
Lower Mississippi RFC

LMRFC Home News Organization Search for:  NWS All NOAA

Top News of the Day  
Monthly Educational Modules Now Available on LMRFC Social Media Accounts




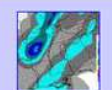

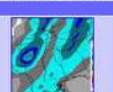

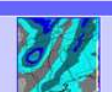
### Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts



Quantitative Precipitation Forecast, or QPF, is a prediction of precipitation amounts over an area. In this case, the area is that of the LMRFC. QPF is created for six hour increments for the next 72 hour periods at 12z and 00z and 34 hours at 18z and 06z. This is routinely done three times a day (00z, 12z, and 18z), but can be at 06z if the weather dictates. The resultant LMRFC QPF is then used as an input into the hydrologic model and river forecasts are issued based on QPF.

The LMRFC issues 72 hours of quantitative precipitation forecasts (QPF) throughout the year. For our routine river forecasts, only 12 hours of QPF is normally used. Under certain conditions and based on specific requests by our users, we will utilize 24 hours of QPF in them. A full 72 hours of QPF is used as input to our river models to produce local Significant River Flood Outlooks and National Significant River Flood Outlooks. Therefore, the daily Significant River Flood Outlook does not account for a full 5 days of QPF covering the LMRFC river forecast area.

5-Day QPF for the United States can be found at <http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/davi-5.shtml>.

#### Routine Issuances

12Z QPF Images Issued at Wed Jul 23, 2014 at 7:28 AM	00Z QPF Images Issued at Tue Jul 22, 2014 at 7:30 PM
In the table below are links to the latest QPF graphics for the 12Z 24 hour creation time.	In the table below are links to the latest QPF graphics for the 00Z 24 hour creation time.
12 hour QPF is utilized for river forecasts	12 hour QPF is utilized for river forecasts
	
Latest 12Z 12-hour QPF starting Jul 23 at 12Z	Latest 00Z 12-hour QPF starting Jul 23 at 00Z
	
Latest 12Z 24-hour QPF starting Jul 23 at 12Z	Latest 00Z 24-hour QPF starting Jul 23 at 00Z
	
Latest 12Z 48-hour QPF starting Jul 23 at 12Z	Latest 00Z 48-hour QPF starting Jul 23 at 00Z
	
Latest 12Z 72-hour QPF starting Jul 23 at 12Z	Latest 00Z 72-hour QPF starting Jul 23 at 00Z

Connect with us:  <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc>  @NWSLMRFC

US National Weather Service  
Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

The LMRFC issues precipitation forecast products called Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF). These forecasts are issued three times a day, in the morning, afternoon, and evening. When the LMRFC is on 24-hour duty during flooding, the forecaster will issue a QPF forecast overnight. The QPF forecast goes out 72 hours but is broken up into a 12-hour, 24-hour, 48-hour, and 72-hour forecast. The main purpose for the QPF forecasts is to input the forecast precipitation into the river models. For routine river forecasting, the 12-hour and 24-hour QPF forecasts are most commonly used; however, the 48-hour and 72-hour QPF forecasts are occasionally used in contingency forecasts.

## Day 6

Previously, we discussed the LMRFC's forecast precipitation products; and, as promised, we are now going to cover some more precipitation and weather forecast products including precipitation observations, mean areal precipitation, and much more. If you would like to learn more about these products and where to find them, check out the graphics below.

# LMRFC

## Precipitation Observations

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>

**National Weather Service**  
**Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service**

Home News Organization Search for:  NWS All NOAA

Local forecast by "City, ST"

30 Year PRISM Normals Have Been Updated  
The precipitation images, shapefiles and downloads have been reprocessed utilizing the updated 1981-2010 PRISM normals. Read More...

Warnings & Forecasts Graphical Forecasts National Maps Radar Water Air Quality Satellite Climate

River Observations River Forecasts Experimental Long-Range River Flood Risk Precipitation River Download Other Information

Images Download About NWS Precip Analysis Other Useful Information Survey & Feedback Regional RFC Precip Data

The Precipitation Generation Process is currently running and began at 2014/07/28 17:36.

CONUS - Puerto Rico Current 1-Day Observed Precipitation  
Valid at 7/28/2014 1200 UTC - Created 7/28/14 18:17 UTC

1. Timeframe  
Current Data  
Archive: Month/Year  
Archive: Daily  
July 23, 2014 - Today  
July 23, 2014 - Last 7 Days  
July 23, 2014 - Last 14 Days  
July 23, 2014 - Last 30 Days  
July 23, 2014 - Last 60 Days

2. Product  
Observed

3. Location  
States  
NWS RFC/Regions  
NWS WFOs  
CONUS - Puerto Rico  
Alabama  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
California

4. Units  
English  
Metric

Update URL for Bookmarking  
Print/Save Map  
View Yesterday's Analysis  
Zoom Out to CONUS

NOTE: If you would like to bookmark or share your current view, you must first click the "Update URL for Bookmarking" button. The URL in your browser window can then be bookmarked or shared.

NOTE: Data for the entire country are usually available by 12:30 pm Eastern Time (9:30 am Pacific Time).

Full resolution version (3400x1700 pixels - 505K)

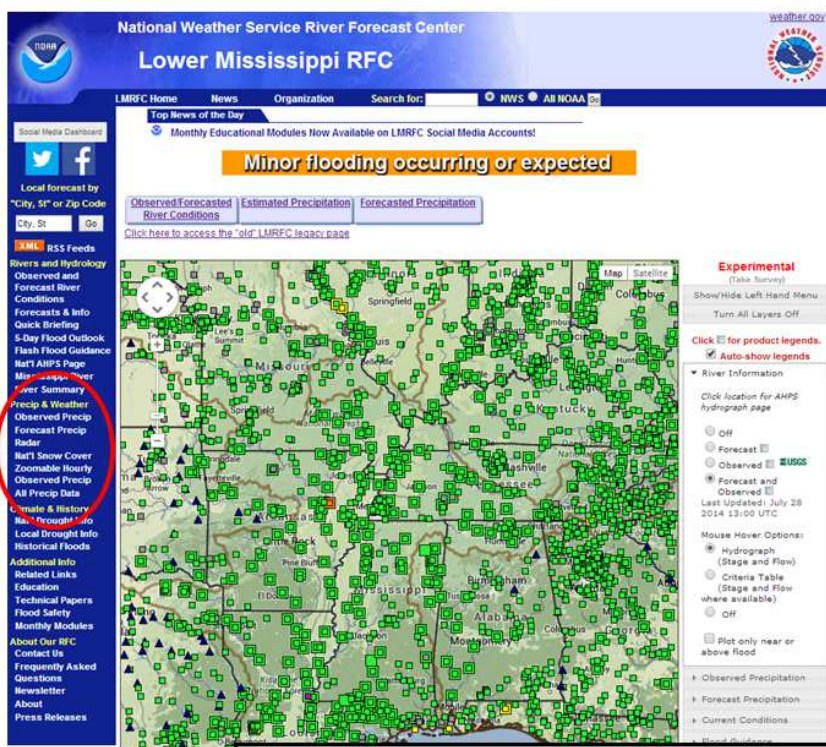
Hourly Precipitation (East and Central US)

- Observed Precipitation is a product that displays precipitation estimates across the U.S. This product is produced by River Forecast Centers and is based on precipitation sensors such as radar, rain gages, and satellites.
- Observed precipitation estimates are found on the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service webpage (pictured left).
- You can download the output files for research purposes or simply view the precipitation totals with the "Images" and "Download" tabs in the header.
- You can choose to view observed precipitation for the following time periods: the last 24 hours, 7 days, 14 days, 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 180 days, Month to Date, Year to Date, and Water-Year to Date (Oct 1<sup>st</sup>).
- You can also view archived daily precipitation totals, as well as archived month and year data
- Archived month and year data has to option to view the following:
  - Observed Precipitation – quality controlled precipitation estimates
  - Normal Precipitation – derived from PRISM climate data to show the normal precipitation values for the time period selected.
  - Derived Precipitation Products:
    - Departure from Normal – shows the result of the "normal" dataset subtracted from the "observed" precipitation
    - Percentage of Normal – shows the result of the "normal" dataset divided into the "observed" precipitation
- At the bottom of the image map, you can choose to overlay topography, precipitation amounts, counties, rivers, states, highways and cities, and RFC boundaries.
- You can view this data on different geographic scales such as by states, regions, NWS River Forecast Centers (RFC), and NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO)
- Lastly, you can change the units from English (inches) to Metric (millimeters)



Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

## Precipitation and Weather Products



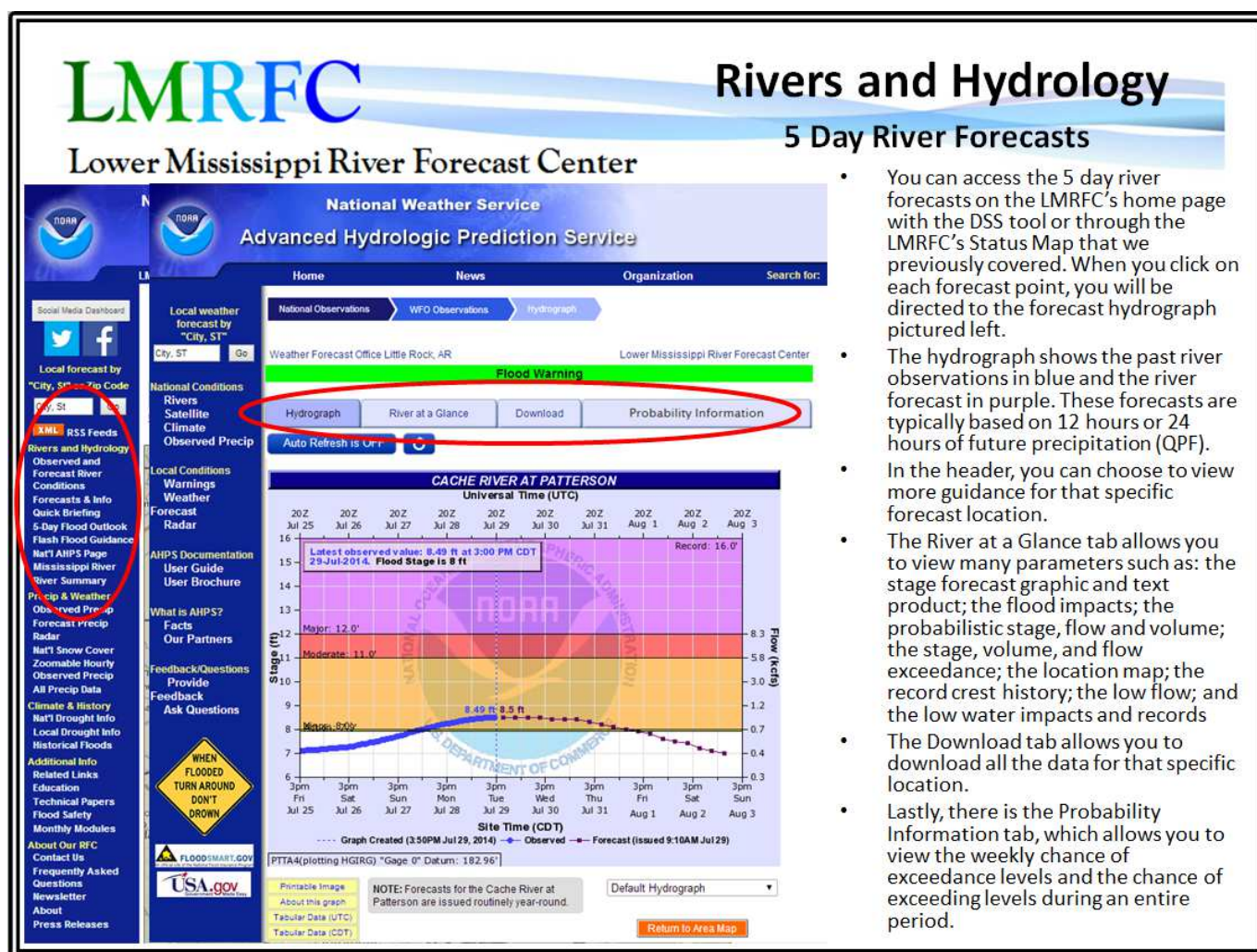
- Observed Precipitation
- Forecast Precipitation
- Radar
  - Here you can view individual radar data, as well as a mosaic of radars for the nation or specific sectors.
- National Snow Cover
  - Here you can view hourly and daily snow analyses, hourly and daily driving data, climate and static data, and observations.
- Hourly Observed Precipitation
  - Here you can view the hourly precipitation estimates that are used in the 24-hour observed precipitation data on the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service
- All Precipitation Data Tab is a one-stop shop for all the precipitation and weather products we have covered, as well as:
  - Gage Only Data
    - 24-hour observed precipitation totals based only on rain gage data
  - 24 hour Mean Areal Precipitation Data
    - Precipitation estimates based on averaging rain gage readings over river basins
  - Precipitation Frequency Data
    - Provided by the NWS Hydrometeorologic Design Studies Center (HDSC)

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## Day 7

Are you ready to learn about some more of the LMRFC's forecast products? Well, you are in luck! Now, we are focusing on the LMRFC's Rivers and Hydrology section on the LMRFC's home page here: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/>. The LMRFC issues many river forecast products and guidance on a daily basis, as seen on the Rivers and Hydrology section on the left hand side of the LMRFC's website. One of most important forecast products is the 5 day river forecast for each location in a river basin. To learn more about these forecasts and where to find them, check out the 5 day river forecast graphic below.

If you are looking at the Rivers and Hydrology section on the LMRFC's website, you notice that we have already covered some of these tabs; however, there are some that we haven't. We are also going to cover the 5-Day Flood Outlook and the Flash Flood Guidance tabs. Check out the other graphic below to learn more about these products.





Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

## Rivers and Hydrology

### 5 Day Flood Outlook Product

### Flash Flood Guidance



[Click Here for National Significant River Flood Outlook Graphic](#)

#### Significant River Flood Outlook

Valid: 7/29/2014 - 8/3/2014

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center 7/29/2014 9:52:31 AM



SIGNIFICANT RIVER  
FLOODING POSSIBLE.

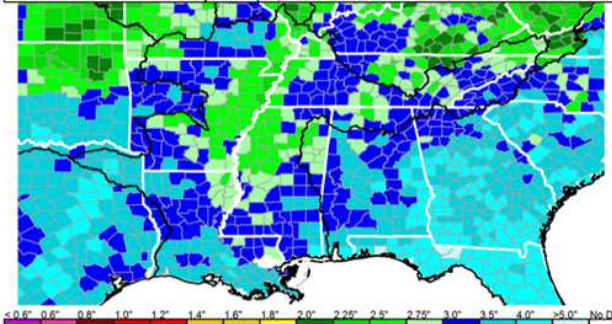
SIGNIFICANT RIVER  
FLOODING LIKELY.

SIGNIFICANT RIVER  
FLOODING OCCURRING  
OR IS IMMINENT.

The Significant River Flood Outlook Product (FOP) is issued once a day by River Forecast Centers (RFC) to highlight areas of possible, likely, imminent or occurring moderate flooding. This product is based on a variety of future precipitation (QPF) that is based on the forecaster's judgment.



National Weather Service  
Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center  
3 Hour Flash Flood Guidance  
Updated July 29, 2014 2:45 PM CDT



Select the product:	3 Hour Flash Flood Guidance
Choose a location to zoom in on, or click on the image:	Lower Mississippi RFC
View text versions of the state flash flood guidance values:	Alabama <input type="button" value="View Text Product"/>
Download data for GIS applications:	<input type="button" value="Download DBF File"/>

Flash flood guidance (FFG) values are the average number of inches of rainfall for a given time period required to produce flash flooding in a specified area. These values are based on soil moisture conditions and are issued 4 times a day by the LMRFC. You can choose to view the 1-hour, 3-hour, and 6-hour FFG products, as well as view FFG by state or RFC. The NWS Weather Forecast Offices use this guidance when issuing flash flood watches and warnings.

## Day 8

Next up, we are going to be talking about the "Climate and History" section on the LMRFC's website. In this section, you have three tabs: Nat'l Drought Info, Local Drought Info, and Historical Floods. To learn more about these tabs, check out the graphic below.

# LMRFC

## Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=local\\_drought](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=local_drought)

National Weather Service River Forecast Center  
Lower Mississippi RFC

LMRFC Home News Organization Search for:  NWS All NOAA

Local forecast by "City, St" or Zip Code  
City, St  Go

RSS Feeds  
Rivers and Hydrology  
Observed and Forecast River Conditions  
Forecasts & Info  
Quick Briefing  
5-Day Flood Outlook  
Flash Flood Guidance  
Nat'l AHPS Page  
Mississippi River River Summary  
Precip & Weather  
Observed Precip  
Forecast Precip  
Radar  
Nat'l Snow Cover  
Zoomable Hourly Observed Precip  
All Precip Data  
**Climate & History**  
Nat'l Drought Info  
Local Drought Info  
Historical Floods  
Additional Info  
Related Links  
Education  
Technical Papers  
Flood Safety  
Monthly Modules  
About Our RFC  
Contact Us  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Newsletter  
About  
Press Releases

### National Drought Information

Drought Conditions

- [Weekly Drought Monitor](#)
- [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#)
- [Additional Precipitation Needed to End Drought Conditions](#)
- [Crop Moisture Index](#)

Climate Outlooks

- [6-10 day Temp & Precip Outlook](#)
- [30 day & 90 day Temp & Precip Outlook](#)
- [12-Season Precip Outlook](#)
- [12-Season Temp Outlook](#)
- [Probability of Exceedence Forecast for Precipitation](#)  
- given amount for three months starting current month going

US Danger Assessments

- [Danger Assessment of Temp, Wind, Precip, Soil, and W](#)

### U.S. Drought Portal

[www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)

What is NIDIS? Products Tools Regional Programs Resources

#### U.S. Drought Monitor

July 22, 2014  
(Released Thursday, Jul. 24, 2014)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Author: David Miskus  
NOAA/NWS/CEP/CPC

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- The "Nat'l Drought Info" tab will take you to the U.S. Drought Portal pictured below.
- The "Local Drought Info" tab will take you to the LMRFC's one-stop shop for all the climate data such as the drought monitor, climate outlooks, soil conditions, and other important climate and drought links.
- Lastly, the "Historical Floods" tab takes you to the LMRFC educational page.

## Day 9

Now, that we have covered the majority of the LMRFC's forecast products and guidance. It is time to highlight another awesome one-stop shop tool...It's the LMRFC's Quick Briefing page! The LMRFC's Quick Briefing page is a great tool for situational awareness! You can either access this page with the "Quick Briefing" tab on the left hand side of the LMRFC's website, seen in the graphic below; or, you can simply click the link here:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/quickbrief.php>. If you want to check out all the different forecast products that are on the LMRFC's Quick Briefing page, check out the graphics below.

# LMRFC

## Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

### Status Map

# Quick Briefing Page

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/quickbrief.php>

### Current and Future Precipitation

**LMRFC Quick Briefing**

**Minor flooding occurring or expected**

**Current River Conditions - Flood Category Map of Highest Forecast River Stage**

**Flood Ca**

- Minor
- Moderate
- Major
- No Flood Occurring
- Missing

Updated 07/30/2014 02:51 PM CDT

The map above updates at :20 and :50 past the hour. Click on the map to obtain detailed river information.

LMRFC River Flood Summary - Updated 07/30/2014 02:50PM Central Daylight			
Number in Flood		Number in Flood and Forecasted to Reach	
Minor	Major	Minor	Major
1	0	1	0

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Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

## Quick Briefing Page

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/quickbrief.php>

### 5 Day Flood Outlook Product

#### Flood Potential Map

The LMRFC issues 72 hours of quantitative precipitation forecasts (QPF) throughout the year. For our routine river forecasts, only 12 hours of QPF is normally used. Under certain conditions and based on specific requests by our users, we will utilize 24 hours of QPF in them. A full 72 hours of QPF is used as input to our river models to produce local Significant River Flood Outlooks and National Significant River Flood Outlooks. Therefore, the daily Significant River Flood Outlook does not account for a full 3 days of QPF covering the LMRFC river forecast area.

5-Day QPF for the United States can be found at <http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-5.shtml>.



#### Significant River Flood Outlook

Valid: 7/21/2014 - 7/26/2014

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center 7/21/2014 10:28:49 AM



Significant River Flooding impacts include:  
Roads adversely affected. Residential, commercial, industrial, and/or agricultural areas affected. May require evacuation of

Significant River Flooding Possible.  
Significant River Flooding Likely.  
Significant River Flooding Occurring or is Imminent.



<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc>



US National Weather Service

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center



@NWSLMRFC

### Past Precipitation and Climate Outlooks

#### Past Precipitation Conditions

##### Twenty-Four Hour Precipitation ending at 12Z



Daily Precipitation Estimates

##### Mean Areal Precip Data



Mean Areal Precipitation Data for Wednesday, July 23, 2014

##### Archives

- Tuesday, July 22, 2014
- Monday, July 21, 2014
- Sunday, July 20, 2014
- Saturday, July 19, 2014
- Friday, July 18, 2014
- Thursday, July 17, 2014

##### Climate Prediction Center's Day 3 - 7 Hazards



Day 3 - 7 Hazards

##### Climate Prediction Center's Day 8 - 14 Hazards



Day 8 - 14 Hazards

## Day 10

Since we've covered most of the LMRFC's forecast products already, we want to leave you with a little more additional information. And, how fitting is it that we are ending our LMRFC Website and Forecast Products Module with the "Additional Information" section on the LMRFC's website?! The best way to see what is in this section is by actually going to the LMRFC's website and clicking on the tabs in this section. However, we would like to highlight two of the main tabs in this section: "Monthly Modules" and "Flood Safety." First up is the "Monthly Module" tab. This is where all of the Monthly Educational Modules are archived for you to see. So, in case you miss out on any of the Monthly Module posts on social media, you can always check them out here! Second is the "Flood Safety" tab. This gives you some very useful flood safety tips that can help save you and/or your family's lives.

The screenshot displays the LMRFC website's 'Additional Information' section. The header features the LMRFC logo and the text 'Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center'. Below this, two main tabs are visible: 'Monthly Modules' and 'Flood Safety'. The 'Monthly Modules' tab is active, showing a sidebar with a search bar and a list of links. The main content area is titled 'Monthly Educational Modules' and lists various resources, including 'January - An Overview of the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center' and 'February - All about the LMRFC's Partners'. The 'Flood Safety' tab is also visible, showing a section titled 'Flood Safety' with links for 'Types of Flooding', 'Impacts to Automobiles', 'Flood WATCH vs. WARNING', 'Before the Flood', 'During the Flood', and 'After the Flood'. A prominent purple banner states: 'The rule for being safe in a flood situation is simple: HEAD FOR HIGHER GROUND AND STAY AWAY FROM FLOOD WATERS!'. Below this, the 'Types of Flooding' section lists four types: River Flooding, Coastal Flooding, Urban Flooding, and Flash Flooding, each with a brief description. The footer includes social media links and the website URL: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc>.

**LMRFC**  
Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

**Additional Information**

**Monthly Modules**

**Flood Safety**

**Flood Safety**

Types of Flooding   Impacts to Automobiles   Flood WATCH vs. WARNING   Before the Flood   During the Flood   After the Flood

**The rule for being safe in a flood situation is simple:  
HEAD FOR HIGHER GROUND AND STAY AWAY FROM FLOOD WATERS!**

**Types of Flooding**

- River Flooding**  
Flooding along rivers is a natural and inevitable part of life. Some floods occur seasonally when winter or spring rains, coupled with melting snow, fill river basins with too much water too quickly. Torrential rains from decaying hurricanes or tropical systems can also produce river flooding.
- Coastal Flooding**  
Winds generated from tropical storms and hurricanes or intense offshore low pressure systems can drive ocean water inland and cause significant flooding. Escape routes can be blocked off and blocked by high water. Coastal flooding can also be produced by sea waves called tsunamis, sometimes referred to as tidal waves. These waves are produced by earthquakes or volcanic activity.
- Urban Flooding**  
As land is converted from fields or woodlands to roads or parking lots, it loses its ability to absorb rainfall. Urbanization increases runoff 2 to 6 times over what would occur on natural terrain. During periods of urban flooding, streets can become swift moving rivers, while basements can become death traps as they fill with water.
- Flash Flooding**  
Several factors contribute to flash flooding. The two key elements are rainfall intensity and duration. Intensity is the rate of rainfall, and duration is how long the rain lasts. Topography, soil conditions, and ground cover also play an important role.

Flash floods occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or a sudden release of water held by an ice jam. Flash floods can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides. You will not always have a warning that these deadly, sudden floods are coming. *Most flood deaths are due to FLASH FLOODS.*

Most flash flooding is caused by slow-moving thunderstorms, thunderstorms repeatedly moving over the same

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Now, we have covered the LMRFC's forecast products and guidance, as well as shown you how and where to access all this information through the LMRFC's website. We hope this has been very beneficial and that you have fully enjoyed it!